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652 B. C.; the 22nd March being the first day of the Assyrian year.

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The Secretary to the Council also read the following communication from John Barton, Esq., on a remarkable phenomenon observed on Lough Erne :—

*“Clonelly, 23rd October, 1855.*

“MY DEAR SIR,—I beg to call your attention to a phenomenon on Lough Erne, which is universally known to the inhabitants of its shores, particularly on the broad part of the lake,—viz. the working of the lake previous to a change of weather, either from wet to dry, or the reverse.

“As I am aware you know the principal names in the lower lake, I will take Lusties Islands as the centre, and I think the best part for an observer that had any idea of studying the matter to station himself.

“When the lake roars (as the phrase here is) on the east shores, it is a sign of wet; when the noise is on the west, of fine weather. On a calm day the noise of the lake is equal to a waterfall, and the swell comes like a ground swell of the sea, lashing each shore, as the case may be, either from the west for wet, or east for dry weather.

“I have been on the lake on a very fine day,—the lake as smooth as possible,—when all of a sudden a strong ground swell came on, apparently without a cause. In about an hour or so after, it rained very hard, still continuing calm. On the wide part, of course, the waves are larger; but inside the Bow Island an observer can notice this, but in a much smaller degree. From my notice having been attracted to this, I can perceive the same, in a smaller degree, in all small lakes. And I am of opinion, that in a smaller degree every body of water must be subject to the same agitation, although in small bodies the harder to perceive.

“A ground swell on the sea may be accounted for by agitation from any distance, though it may be doubtful. But

when the same phenomenon takes place on a small body of water like Lough Erne, that the eye can reach over, and see that for days together it is smooth and calm, and all of a sudden this ground swell takes place, it must be from either atmospheric pressure, or some other cause, certainly unknown to the unscientific inhabitants of this neighbourhood. I made inquiries when at Lough Neagh if the same phenomenon was observed there, and could not find that it was, which led me to think, that as Lough Erne was so much higher above the sea (150 feet) than Lough Neagh (40, I believe), this circumstance might make a difference in the agitation and noise, as it appears that the higher any lake is above the sea the more effect the wind has in raising its waves. In a breeze it may so happen that this phenomenon may take place in a greater degree in lakes of greater elevation. You mentioned that some similar phenomenon was observed in the Lake of Geneva. It appears to me that the same takes place in every body of water,—but so many scientific persons have lived on its banks, that they must have noticed it at once, and recorded it.

“I forgot to mention, that previous to frost the waves beat on the south shore, or Churchhill side, which is heard very faintly from our side (the north side).

“I hope you will excuse this, as it is merely the result of observation, and known to all the people in the neighbourhood of this lake.

“I am your's very truly,

“JOHN BARTON.

“*Rev. Romney Robinson, D. D.*”